

AUGUST 2020 EDITION 1 NEWSLETTER

FACEBOOK PAGE — Quest Academy Family Group





"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Winston S. Churchill

WELCOME



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break. I am really looking forward to seeing all of the learners back at school. Their first day back is Wednesday 2nd September and will be based in their form groups. They will then follow their timetables on Monday 10th September.

Over the summer holidays our office and facilities staff have worked particularly hard to ensure that any planned works have been completed before the learners return to school. There have been some significant further improvements to our already wonderful facilities. These include: a reading pod in the sensory garden, additional equipment in the outdoor learning area, three new teaching walls in Food Technology, Science and Alan Turing classroom, playground markings for younger learners to play a range of games, such as hop scotch and a fitness circuit, outdoor table tennis tables and a covered seated area for learners to relax in at break times. All areas under the play equipment have also been resurfaced.

The school has also purchased an additional 80 laptops and a charger trolley for each class so that every learner has their own laptop. We have also invested in other equipment linked to our Adventure, Community and Enterprise (ACE), Land Based Management, media studies and performing arts. Examples include specialist ICT equipment for media, 4D printer and laser cutter, electronic drum kits, a stage and lighting, two more polytunnels and a field shelter.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Year 11 learners for their achievements in their exams this year. They are all now looking forward to moving onto different colleges to pursue their particular interests. Once we are able to we will invite families and their children to a formal celebratory event. Due to current circumstances this is likely to be Easter.

Attached to the email is an amended version of the COVID 19 Q and A sheet sent out at the end of term. However, I would like to draw your attention to the section about Transport to highlight the recommendations by Warwickshire.

A copy of this and the school's COVID 19 risk assessment can be found on our website. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Nícola Wells.

UNIFORM

Our uniform is a black blazer with purple tape on the collar and lapels, a black V-neck sweat-shirt

with purple stripe, and a purple polo with embroidered Quest Academy logo. In addition to the logo items we expect children to wear black trousers and plain black shoes or trainers; for those with sensory issues soft black trousers are allowed





although we prefer tailored trousers. Similarly smart tailored black shorts will be acceptable in summer.

For PE learners wear a black t-shirt with purple side panels and white piping with an embroidered logo, a black hoodie

with purple side panels and embroidered logo and black shorts with purple panels with white piping and logo, comfortable sports shoes – pumps or trainers. Quest Black jogging bottoms for outdoor PE are allowed too.

If you would like to purchase new uniform, we have a limited stock of polo shirts, jumpers and blazers available in school. Please contact the school regarding stock level and sizes.

If we don't have the size or you require PE uniform, these can be ordered directly from Webb Ellis

in Rugby. You can call and order over the telephone on **01788 567777,** email directly <u>Christine@webb-ellis.co.uk</u> or visit their <u>http://www.webb-ellis.co.uk/schools/</u>



N Book of the Week

Grandpa's Great Escape

Author: David Walliams

Jack's Grandpa...

- * wears his slippers to the supermarket
- * serves up Spam a la Custard for dinner
- * and often doesn't remember Jack's name

But he can still take to the skies in a speeding Spitfire and save the day...

An exquisite portrait of the bond between a small boy and his beloved Grandpa - this book takes readers on an incredible journey with Spitfires over London and Great Escapes through the city in a high octane adventure full of comedy and heart.







Family VibEs is for schools who want to engage parents more deeply in their children's values experience. Values in the home are key to nurturing family relationships, especially in challenging times. Family VibEs is a series of short leaflets for parents with ideas and help to bring values into the home. We hope this family values toolkit can help families to grow closer and more understanding of each other.

Joy is what happens to us when we allow ourselves to recognise how good things really are.



Communication – sharing ideas

- What does Joy mean to each of us? Let's listen to each other. Is Joy the same as Happiness or is there a subtle difference?.
- Joy Stories: Happiness doesn't come from Headstands by Tamara Levitt, Happy Birth Day by Robie H. Harris, Aliens Love Underpants by Claire Freedman, Mixed Up Fairy Tales by Hilary Robinson.
- Youtube video stories: https://youtu.be/eaCcfLZgr0Q , https://youtu.be/Zf6KNWRwluE





Behaviour & activities – doing together

- Start a Wall of Joy. Put up a large sheet of paper somewhere in the house. Let everyone decorate it by adding things that give them joy. You can draw or write, and this works best if you just add to it as things happen during the week.
- Talk about what makes you happy, and why. Try out someone else's happy thing. Does it work for you? Does it help you understand them better?
- Check out the Action for Happiness website which has lots of ideas and resources. I recommend their book, "50 Ways to Feel Happy" <u>https://www.actionforhappiness.org/</u>

Happiness – family fun

- Hold a family comedy night. Let everyone prepare a few jokes to tell and prepare a programme, refreshments and seating plan. Make it a real fun time for everyone. Even the youngest children enjoy joining in the laughter (although they don't always get the joke!)
- Put on a Happy Games Event. Once the social distancing rules are relaxed, you can join with another family too. Play a few games like 'keepy uppy', a relay hopping race, or any silly games you can think of. At the end of each game each person gives the game a 'Happy

Score' from 1 to 10 to indicate how happy it made them feel. (This idea is thanks to '50 ways to feel Happy' from Action for Happiness.)

Wellbeing – being well in body and mind

- Try a Guided Meditation on a Happiness theme. Here is
 one which is free to use: <u>https://www.greenchildmagazine.com/guidedmeditation-happiness-factory/</u>
- * Here is another from Headspace: <u>https://www.headspace.com/meditation/happiness</u>
- I highly recommend pausing in your day to go inward and connect with your authentic self as a way of developing a greater capacity for Joy.



YEAR 11 RESULTS DAY!



WELL DONE TO ALL YEAR 11 FOR YOUR RESULTS!

We were so pleased to see so many of you, and we are happy the hoodie's fit! For those that haven't made it in we shall call to arrange you receiving

Bepartment for Education **GCSE Grading** 9 **A*** 8 A 6 в -1355 4 С D 3 Е 2 G U U

results and Hoodies!

CERTIFICATES

We will be in contact with parents/carers in due course to make arrangements for the collection of certificates, this will be approximately November 2020.

Any unclaimed certificates will be stored securely at school for 12 months only.



ONLINE SAFETY

Net Aware via NSPCC - <u>https://www.net-aware.org.uk/</u>



• CEOP Thinkuknow website for advice and support



• Share Aware campaign - <u>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-</u>

info/share-aware.pdf



Safety and settings Relationship and sex

3 WEEK ROLLING LUNCH MENU: SEPT 2020 - JULY 2021





COPING WITH ANXIETY IN A POST-LOCKDOWN WORLD



Dr Fiona Pienaar, Senior Clinical Advisor at <u>Mental Health</u> <u>Innovations/Shout</u>, offers her expert advice on how to cope with the challenges of emerging from lockdown. After months of being isolated at home, we can finally return to some kind of normality. But, for many people, the end of lockdown has signalled the start of a new set of

worries. So, what is it about post-lockdown life that's making us anxious?

What lockdown did to us

Lockdown was an unprecedented situation and there was no roadmap to guide us. But, as we began to understand the nature of this pandemic, we stayed home, avoided those who were not part of our lockdown group, and developed new routines, new roles, and new ways of connecting and working.

It's likely that people found this experience incredibly challenging. Holding down a combination of diverse roles has understandably affected the mental health and wellbeing of many adults. Challenges around job losses and financial strain have been rife.

Children and young people, meanwhile, lost their freedom and missed out on the many rites of passage of being a child and an adolescent.

All of these experiences, or lack of, involve loss and change and, potentially, grief and the associated strong emotions. Indeed, there is growing awareness that the lockdown experience could lead to a surge in people of all ages needing mental health support now and into the future.

Given the national and global challenges, it is completely understandable if we have felt fearful, anxious, angry, sad, and other emotions. The speed of change in terms of the advice we receive is rapid and sometimes confusing. We are also constantly reminded about the potential threat to our health. It can feel like an unpredictable rollercoaster where you can't see what's ahead.

Why are we experiencing post-lockdown anxiety?

Now, after months of looking forward to an end to lockdown, we can finally start to return to a new normality. So why do so many people, adults and children alike, feel anxious about actually taking those steps outside their homes? I wonder if this is partly associated with control, or lack of it.

As we settled into the predictable routines of lockdown and daily news of the pandemic ebbed and flowed, home might have started to feel like a safe environment to shelter in.

In a world where it felt as if we had lost personal control of our lives beyond our front door, our homes were a place where we could follow routines and feel like we had some control. Perhaps, while we didn't like the fact that our freedom was curtailed, we understood that staying at home protected us and our families and we held control of that.

Going into an environment that looks and feels different, might feel as if we lose control of the ability to ensure our own and our children's safety.

There may be other factors contributing to our anxiety, including:

- Lack of clarity as to when the pandemic will be under control, meaning we may feel hesitant to 'start over'
- The threat of a second wave of infections potentially resulting in a second round of lockdowns
- Reconnecting with others after such a long period of isolation and separation

What can we do to support ourselves and our families as we step into this next phase?

For a start ... whether you are starting to go out to work and socialise, whether you are still shielding at home and whether you have pre-existing mental health challenges or not, remind yourself and your family that it is completely understandable to be experiencing anxiety in what is another period of adjustment. Everyone has experienced and coped with lockdown and social isolation in their own way, individually and as a family or a group. Taking the time to think about how you and your family successfully negotiated your way through this period of lockdown can help you get in touch with your resilience, grit and determination and perhaps reveal new insight into the ability you all have to cope under challenging conditions. Even if there were many occasions where it felt distinctly dark and hopeless, you have nevertheless reached this point! Knowing that you have this success under your belt, so to speak, can give you a sense of what you are all capable of as you step into this next phase.

Ask yourself and your family:

- What did you notice about yourself and how you coped during the lockdown period?
- What are you proud of?
- What have you noticed about each other?
- What are your strengths as a family?
- How are you going to move together through this next stage?

As lockdown eases, some Top Tips to take away:

- 1. Keep a check on the information you and your family are absorbing about the global pandemic. Don't let too much exposure to news and updates impact on your wellbeing.
- Sometimes we forget to be aware of our breathing. Take a few deep breaths, clear your mind, focus
 on your breathing. Practise with your children. It can help to calm things down very quickly.
- 3. Remind yourself and your family of your strengths and what you have already coped with to get to this point. We are usually stronger than we give ourselves credit for.
- 4. **Make time to talk** during a mealtime, in the car, sitting on a child's bed at night. Check how every body is feeling, what they're thinking; watch out for each other, particularly children and young people and those more vulnerable. Take time out to relax and have fun.
- 5. **Reach out for support** from family, friends and colleagues. Seek professional help if you feel you, or a family member, need it.

...and remember...let's be kind to ourselves and to others.

Further help

- <u>Shout</u> is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text Shout to 85258
- The charity <u>Mind</u> offers free support for anyone suffering from mental health-related issues. If you need advice or signposting to an appropriate support service you can get in touch with Mind by phone (0300 123 3393) or email (info@mind.org.uk).
- <u>YoungMinds</u> is the UK's leading mental health charity for children and young people. Through its website, young people and their parents can access a wealth of resources to help them respond to mental health challenges and get help. They also have a parent hotline you can call on 0808 802 5544.
- Parent Info has a list of online mental health resources <u>here</u>



LOCAL THINGS TO DO (CHEAP OR FREE)

Coventry

 <u>Transport Museum</u> - Join us this summer in our <u>workshops</u> where everyday objects become new playful creations for your child to take home. Book

online in advance - £5 per child including one accompanying adult.

- <u>Coombe Abbey Park</u>
- Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve
- War Memorial Park

Rugby

- Draycote Water
- <u>Caldecott Park</u>
- World of Rugby Hall of Fame
- <u>Rugby Art Gallery & Museum</u> reopening on Thursday 6th August.

Leamington Spa

- Jephson Gardens
- Quarry Park Disc Golf
- Jephson Glasshouse and botanical garden







QUEST POINTS, FRIDAYS AND SCRIPTS

In September there will be some strengthening of procedures, please note there is no new changes just some minor adaptations due to COVID-19.

Friday enrichment opportunities will no longer be referred to as "rewards" but instead, this will now become **Social Skills** (lower school) and **Community and Enterprise** (upper school). As a result of these adaptations, there will be no Quest points for each lesson, we will instead emphasise the use of **Empathy** points, promoting and recognising positive behaviour within Quest.

We will recognise positive behaviour presented by learners in the form of recognition time (at the end of each day),

postcards, certificates and a whole class reward based on an individualised empathy target per class.



SCRIPTS

Refined scripts from September, a few scripts have been removed, this is to ensure the use of scripts are simpler and easier to understand for our learners. The scripts are broken down into our three school rules, **be ready, be respectful** and **be safe**.

MAKING IT RIGHT

Learners will have an opportunity to attend a 'making it right' session, at the end of each lesson



(5-10min, this is a token gesture). This is for learners who have been unable to access their learning or have shown unsafe behaviour during a lesson that is not in line with the three school rules. If the learner has been unable to complete the 'making it right' session at the end of the lesson, the session will then be held at the end of the day (3pm-3:25pm). These sessions will either be academic or behaviour-based, depending on the reason for the 'making it right' session. If the learner does not need to attend any 'making it right' sessions, they will attend 'recognition time' instead, where they will access a range of choice time opportunities in recognition of their positive behaviour.

What happens if a learner does not access "Making it Right":

- 3 sessions missed email home from Tutor
- 5 sessions missed phone call home from behaviour lead/ discussed in Inclusion meeting
- 10 sessions missed parent/career meeting with Assistant Principal and behaviour lead



to Change Behaviors, Repair Relationships and Improve Results

The amount of sessions missed resets at the start of each half-term.

FRIDAYS:

Due to recognition time being held each day, Enrichment will no longer be held on a Friday. Instead, lower school will access a **Social Skills** programme and upper school will access a **Community and Enterprise programme**. These programmes will be implemented in order to facilitate the learners in developing more skills that are suited to their age-group, in a fun and engaging way, ensuring they are "Ready for Life". Due to the nature of the activities learners will take part in Fridays remain a non-uniform day.





QUEST TERM DATES FOR 2020 - 21:

AUTUMN TERM 2020	
INSET day (no learners on site)	Tuesday 1st September 2020
Starts	Wednesday 2nd September 2020
Half term	Monday 26th October 2020 - Tuesday 3rd November 2020
Ends	Friday 18th December 2020
Christmas holiday	Monday 21st December 2019 - Monday 4th January 2020
SPRING TERM 2021	
INSET day (no learners on site)	Monday 4th January 2021
Starts	Tuesday 5th January 2021
Half term	Monday 15th February 2021 - Friday 19th February 2021
Trust INSET (no learners on site)	Friday 5th March 2021
INSET day (no learners on site)	Monday 8th March 2021
INSET day (no learners on site)	Tuesday 9th March 2021
Ends	Thursday 1st April 2021
Spring (Easter) holiday	Friday 2nd April 2021 - Friday 16th April 2021
SUMMER TERM 2021	
Starts	Monday 19th April 2021
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2021
Half term	Monday 31st May 2021 - Friday 4th June 2021
Ends	Friday 23rd July 2021



SAFEGUARDING & FAMILY FOOTINGS TEAM

- **Daisy** is responsible for lower school families and is available on; <u>daisy.howden@macintyreacademies.org</u> Work mobile 07504001918
- Joan is responsible for upper school families and is available on; Joan.goodrich@macintyreacademies.org Work mobile 07377990796
- If you have any higher level Safeguarding concerns or questions please contact **Anna** on <u>anna.stelfox@macintyreacademies.org</u> Work mobile 07377990797

We are available to help families with things like accessing family support, Early Help,

Child In Need Meetings, Child Protection Meetings, taxi queries, support working with other professionals such as CAMHS, general safeguarding questions and much more.

Quest Academy

Anderson Avenue Rugby Warwickshire CV22 5PE E: <u>quest.office@macintyreacademies.org</u> T: 01788 593 112



How to contact members of staff:

Please contact Reception if you would like to speak with a member of staff. You will either be transferred or reception will email the member of staff to let them know that you have called.

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Putting children and families first



